

# HI-Q

## THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

LARC, Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

### Membership Dues

Membership dues are now due, please contact Jan, VA3JRS for payment or mail in your dues to LARC, Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3

There has been an application form sent out via e-mail for those with internet capabilities. Thank you very much 73 de Wayne, VA3WRL

<http://www.glue.umd.edu/~taylor/frame1.htm>

Biography.com (Site's Motto: "every life has a story"):  
<http://www.biography.com>

Fessenden--The Archive Pages (Canadian Website): The Forgotten Canadian: <http://www.kwarc.on.ca/fessenden.html>

Some links via the Kitchener/Waterloo page:  
<http://www.kwarc.on.ca/archives.html>

Radio Station Grimeton (Swedish Website):  
<http://www.telemuseum.se/Grimeton/Grimeen.HTML>

The Web History of Telecommunications (German Website):  
<http://www-stall.rz.fht-esslingen.de/telehistory/welcome.html>

### Last HI-Q For me

I am sorry to say this is the last publication of the HI-Q that I will be doing. I wish to thank all who have contributed to the publication in the last 2 years that I have been the Editor. Your support and helpful advice has been greatly appreciated, with out it I don't think I could have managed putting together the HI-Q at first. 73 to one and all. Wayne Letang, VA3WRL alias "Old One Boot"

P.S. get Ians tail about his CW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
Jans toooo!! And I thot we Code wars ??

A selection of Websites compiled by CQ magazine as published in their July, 1999 issue.

100 Years of Radio Home Page (with emphasis on Marconi):  
<http://www.alpcom.it/hamradio>

A Gallery of Electromagnetic Personalities:

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project

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**1998/1999 LARC****Founding President**

P. J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW

LARC maintains the Club call VE3FW  
to honour the memory of our first  
President Mr. Pat O'Shea.

**Senate**

Bill Roberts VE3ARN  
Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
Ray Greer VE3CH  
Bill Klemacki VE3AJ  
Dave Kimpton, VE3AVS

**Executive Board**

President:	Ian Mellis	.....	VA3RIM	.....	577-1628
Vice Pres:	Ed Baumann	.....	VE3SNW	.....	622-1216
Secretary:	Norm Bell	.....	VE3XRC	.....	577-9316
Treasurer:	John Watson	.....	VE3GTX	.....	683-3199
Directors:	Andy Malcolm	.....	VE3INI	.....	345-1858
	Eric Todd	.....	VE3XET	.....	626-9720
	Bob Hanson	.....	VE3RVA	.....	767-6924
	Jan Sokoloski	.....	VA3JRS	.....	344-3222
	Pat Pugh	.....	VA3PP	.....	345-8562
Past Pres:	Terry Stewardson	....	VE3TKA	.....	577-9439

**Appointments**

Mem. Sec.:	John Watson	.....	VE3GTX	.....	683-3199
Hi-Q Editor:	Wayne Letang	.....	VA3WRL	.....	344-9759
Emergency Coordinator:	Randy Gottfred,	VA3GOT.....			939-2310

**Club Repeaters**

VE3YQT 147.060 - OFFSET  
VE3TBR 146.820 - OFFSET

**Next Meeting****September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999**

Meetings are held at 7:30 pm every second Thursday of each  
month at Confederation College in room 207B in the  
McIntyre Building.

### Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held in Room 207B at Confederation College, Thunder Bay, Ontario on June 10, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the President VA3RIM, Ian Mellis with 22 members and guests in attendance. The started with a roundtable of those in attendance introducing themselves.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:**

The minutes of the previous meeting held May 13, 1999 were published in detail in the June edition of "HI-Q" and

distributed to all members. VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski pointed out an error in the Treasurer's report which should have included an additional \$ 40.00 for repeater maintenance.

**Motion:** moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and seconded by VE3MPT, Manuel Migueis that the minutes be accepted as amended. **Carried.**

**Correspondence:** none**Treasurer's Report:** VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as of April 30, 1999      \$ 2,502.47

Income Membership Dues	35.00
50/50 Draw	9.00
Bank Interest	<u>0.11</u>
	44.11

Expenses:	
Telephone	69.01
Mail Boxes Etc.	37.00
CNIB Donation	100.00
Upsala Controller	339.83
Bank Service Charge	3.00
Administration	<u>5.53</u>
	554.37

Balance as of May 31, 1999      \$ 1,992.21

**Motion:** moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VA3MOB, Maureen Bell that the Treasurer's report be accepted. **Carried.**

**Old Business:**

**-Field Day:** same place as last year, Hazelwood Lake. Everybody is on their own for food. The club radio will be utilized as well as any other rigs that are available. VE3RVA, Bob Hansen will supply the generator. Things will start to happen between 10 and 11 am, Saturday, June 26, 1999.

**Reports:**

**-Equipment:** VE3INI, Andy Malcolm said the Upsala repeater project is ongoing. Laurie has the new controller and will run it for a while in town for a breakin period. We are still waiting for written approval from Marathon, it is to be forthcoming.

**-Canwarn:** 19 members of the Club attended a CANWARN training session on Saturday, June 5, 1999. VA3JMS, John

Sacek, who has a keen interest in weather may become the Canwarn coordinator.

**-Community Service:** VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki reported that the Hip Hip Hooray walk went off smoothly. Upcoming events include the Triathlon in July and the Airshow in August.

**-RAC:** VE3PD, Pat Doherty said that the RAC Annual General Meeting went on as scheduled. Ken Oelke, VE6AFO is the new President of RAC.

**-Classes:** VE3SNW, Ed Baumann reported that the class has one more review night and then the exam. He expect about 8 to write the exam.

**-ARES:** VE3XRC, Norm Bell reported that the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital as offered to take the pictures for phot identification cards.

#### **New Business:**

**-Nominating Committee:** VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck and VE3PD, Pat Doherty have volunteered to act as the nominating committee as elections are held at the September meeting.

**-Telephone Rates:** it was pointed out that the Club is paying commercial rates for our two telephone lines. VE3XRC, Norm Bell had spoken to the General Manager of Thunder Bay Telephone asking for a reduction to residential rates with no luck. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Mayor and use the reasoning that we are not allowed to conduct business on the auto patch. It was also suggested that the autopatch be moved off-site to a residential address. VA3RIM, Ian Mellis will attempt to arrange a meeting with the Mayor to see what we can do.

**-50/50 Draw:** winner of the 50/50 draw was VE3RVA, Bob Hansen.

**Adjournment:** moved by VA3MOB, Maureen Bell that the meeting be adjourned.

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Following a short break, our two guest speakers were given the floor. VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki and VE3MJN, Marion Nawrocki presented a video of their recent trip to New Zealand including talking to some "ZL" amateur radio operators.

### **Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club held at Boston Pizza, Arthur Street, Thunder Bay, Ontario on July 15, 1999**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 pm by the President, VA3RIM, Ian Mellis with 30 members and guests in attendance. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mr. Laurie Bridgett, the father of VE3BCD, Laurie Bridgett who passed away on July 14, 1999. Three new member who had recently passed their basic examination introduced themselves.

**-Membership and use of VE3YQT by nonmembers:** VE3IOU, Alan Parnell asked of those in attendance who were and who were not members of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. He was also upset at the usage of VE3YQT repeater and auto patch facilities by local nonmembers of the Club. He suggested that a code be put on the auto patch. It was pointed out that both the Club repeaters are open and available to any amateur. This subject will be tabled to the September meeting.

**-Kaministiquia Triathlon:** VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki has received a request to provide radio communications for the Kaministiquia Triathlon to be held on August 21, 1999.

**-New Antenna for VE3YQT:** the floor was turned over to VE3TKA, Terry Stewardson for the main purpose of this special meeting. Terry noted that there have been antenna problems at VE3YQT for a couple of years. It was always suspected that our problems were in the ten year old Sinclair vertical antenna and recently, the technical crew had the opportunity to do some comparison tests at the tower site utilizing another antenna on the tower which is not presently in use. After these comparison tests, they are almost certain the problem is with the old vertical antenna. It is proposed to replace the antenna with a Sinclair 2-10-C4 (4 bay folded dipole array) which is the antenna of choice for most commercial installations. VE3INI, Andy Malcolm had some pictures of the tower showing the location of our antenna. He then went into the technical jargon of the tests that were conducted. The best guess of the technical crew is that a new 2-10-C4 will cost approximately \$ 1,000.00 and the installation by professional riggers will be approximately \$ 500.00 to 600.00. Including the taxes, we would be looking at a total cost of approximately \$ 2000.00. Delivery of a new antenna would be 6 to 8 weeks. this is the primary reason of this meeting because if we waited for September, it would be winter time before the antenna arrived to be installed. We

presently have approximately \$ 2,200.00 in the bank at this time and our Treasurer VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski figures we will need approximately \$ 300.00 between now and the September meeting. By the time the antenna arrives and arrangements are made to have it installed, the 1999-2000 membership dues will be coming in.

**-Motion:** moved by VE3GTX, John Watson and seconded by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann that we allow the technical committee to spend a maximum of \$ 2,500.00 for the purchase and installation of a new antenna on the tower at Mount Baldy for VE3YQT. **Carried.**

**Adjournment:** moved by VA3XRM, Rod McLeod that the meeting be adjourned.

## Public Service By Mike Nawrocki

Here we are delivering the first HI-Q of a new season, it seems such a short time ago that summer was beginning and everyone was ready for some rest and relaxation. If you can call lawn mowing, hedge trimming, gardening etc. relaxation, however I am sure everyone has enjoyed a fairly decent summer. Field Day saw some rather inclement weather, however a number of the hardy braved the elements and continued to operate through the noise and static. That is persistence. Hip Hip Hooray was a very successful event for the organizers, with the help of a lovely warm sunny day. The Thunder Bay Triathlon experienced a very violent storm near the end of the events on the Friday evening. We had one of our frequent short-tempered storms come up, blowing down tents and other structures, and putting a quick end to the bike races, much to the dismay of the participants who were still on the course. Saturday dawned bright and clear, and all events ran smoothly. August has been a busy month for our intrepid volunteers. Thunder Bay In-line skate for cancer research was held along Lakeshore drive; a new event, the Kaministiquia "Conquer the Dog" triathlon was held for the first time in which we were asked to participate. The long arm of Nordic Volunteers keeps reaching out and dragging us in. Coming up on the 28th and 29th of this month is the annual Air Show, which means lots of work for a large number of our regular volunteers. All going well, there will be nothing more until the end of September when the Heart of Thunder Bay run is held. Hear some of our volunteers are going to race rather than watch this year, all the

best, we will be cheering you on. The Club has also become involved in the Canwarn system, a training session was held early in the summer for interested participants, and it was not long after that we were hit with one of the worst storms of the summer which did a lot of damage throughout the area. Several amateurs were scattered around the area and provided some preliminary reports on the weather activity and damage which was passed on to Environment Canada. Welcome back everyone for a new season, see you at the September meeting.  
73 de Mike, VE3ZG

## Update on our Repeaters

Well it coming close to the end of the summer season, club meetings due to start in a couple of weeks. Over the summer the technical people have been busy working on our repeater's systems and have donated many hours of their time to the cause. I keep hearing rumblings of some members why isn't this or that fixed or finished yet, well let's remember this is a all volunteer's effort and we have to balance our time to our personal commitments of family and work with the hobby of amateur radio. I personally like to thank Laurie VE3BCD, Andy VE3INI, John VE3EMI, Bill VE3AJ, And Lindo VE3NHX for all their efforts over the years.

First on the list is VE3YQT, over the last couple of years we have been plagued with random periods of intense noise on the input of the repeater and has caused amateurs with handhelds and low power mobiles to have difficulty communicating due to the desenseing of the repeater receiver. They're had been many discussions to the cause of the problem over the last couple of years. Is it mixing of the output of another installation on the hill, is it a problem with commercial equipment that having a problem, or was there a mechanical problem with the tower hardware causing the problem? To make matters worse it wasn't always there and was hard to pinpoint what it might be. This spring the noise was much more constant and in the first week of July Andy VE3INI, John VE3INI, Lindo VE3NHX and with Jerry VA3BRN suppling a ride up to the mount baldy site took a bunch of test equipment and spent about eight hours testing our system out. A few days later we got together over a coffee and discussed all the results of the tests and came to the conclusion that 90% was likely the Antenna 5% mounting Hardware or 5% our location on the tower. We arranged a special meeting of the membership in July and got permission to replace the Antenna. The Antenna is on order from CRC and should be in by the first week of Sept., then we make arrangements to have it

installed later in the month. On the phone Dail out on YQT this turns out to be a software problem that took many hours to discover the problem and then fix it, seem to be working now.

Next VE3TBR, this we didn't need to add to our list of projects this summer but it has been added. About 3 months ago we began to hear inference on TBR and the sensitivity of the repeater drop way down again making low power radios hard to communicate. There was also at times FM music of a low power Radio station coming through the repeater. Again Andy and John went up to the site with some test equipment and made some test, although their were no immediate cause discovered we prove out that our transmitter was clean and receiver was working the way they should. One problem was discovered was that our duplexers needed to be retuned a bit to bring them up to specs. Their been a lot of speculation that the FM station was causing problems and lots of rumors were floating around about who is causing the problems. I approached John VE3HTM who has had a hand in the FM station setup and we arrange to go to the site and do some tests and help out in any way that we could to try and solve the problems. On Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> Andy VE3INI, John VE3EMI, Bill VE3AJ, Laurie VE3BCD, Terry VE3TKA and John VE3HTM went up to the site and did a lot more tests. We tried re-grounding their tower hardware, raising their Antenna up and then even moved their antenna out on the roof away from the elevator shaft. Let me stress that their transmitter tested completely clean and well within specs. Still we had a problem with TBR the installation of the FM has changed the environment in some way, is it reacting with some rusty hardware on the elevators shaft or the mechanical hardware of air-condition system on the roof and the product of their transmitter and ours is interfering with our receiver. Welcome to the world of coexistence at repeater sites, these problems can be a real nightmare to solve and take a lot of work to sniff out the interfering location. Our first plan of attack is to try a different style of antenna on TBR and see if any improvement can be made, if that doesn't help we try a different repeater on another freq. To see what happens. Lets all hope that it can be readily solved without too much trouble.

On Upsala repeater, its of course has been put off because of our other troubles but its coming together. The repeater has been up and running in test mode off and on over last couple of weeks, the controller is wired in, the duplexers are working fine and we are working on the link radio now to get it into system. Once all the audio and control problems are solved we will have to install everything onto a rack and test for another 2 or 3 weeks to make sure everything is working OK before moving to its location in Upsala.

Another project although not a club repeater but being sponsor by a lot of club members is the 10 Meter repeater that

is now working. Laurie and myself have put it together and its turned out to be a real nightmare of audio quality problems, but is now solved. The only problem that I know of is a software setting that need to be change at the receive end controller to change some timing settings. Randy is going to try and get the transmitter end moved to its permanent location soon.

Randy VA3GOT 94 repeater has finally made it back on the air, although still a few bugs to work out, it should be up and running soon.

And finally my repeater 39 is ready to go to its next testing site soon. Thanks to Andy VE3INI for fixing the power supply. We are in the process of trying to locate it on the north shore in the next month or so for a winter season of testing to evaluate the site to see if worthwhile to pursue later on.

We are also working on a system to cancel one of our phone lines on the repeaters to see if we can cut some costs. Andy has obtain a device that may work for us but it will have to be tested to see if it will work, more on this later.

Have fun but let's remember Amateur radio is a hobby not a job. 73 de Terry, VE3TKA

## The Last Cookie

An Elderly Man lay dying in his bed. In death's agony, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands. With labored breath, he leaned against the door-frame, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for there, spread out upon racks on the kitchen table and counters were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself toward the table, landing on his knees in a crumpled posture. His parched lips parted; the wondrous taste of the cookie was already in his mouth; seemingly bringing him back to life. The aged and withered hand, shakily made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when suddenly it was smacked with a spatula by his wife. "Stay out of those," she said, "they're for the funeral." (via e-mail, de anonymous)

**From: RAC Headquarters - Pierre Mainville,  
VA3PM**

**Date: August 23, 1999**

**Subject: Annual Simulated Emergency Test (SET)**

The RAC Field Organization is inviting all Radio Amateurs to participate in a Simulated Emergency Test (SET). We feel it is very important to demonstrate the cohesion between Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) groups and National Traffic System (NTS), as well as to demonstrate to served agencies and the public what services can be provided under simulated emergency conditions.

The main weekend for the 1999 SET is Oct 2#023#3, but ARES teams or nets may conduct their exercises anytime between September 1 and November 30. Consult with your Section Emergency Coordinator before settling on a date as a SET works best if there is active participation in a number of areas throughout a Section, and involving more than one local net, if possible.

Whether you are part of a new or experienced ARES group, the SET is a great opportunity to learn or practice useful skills in traffic handling, net operation and emergency communication management. For more information and guidelines check the RAC Web page. The URL is: <http://www.rac.ca/set1998.htm>

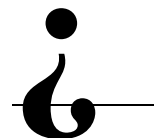
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of Canada Headquarters by September 30.

Please consult the nomination rules on Page 15 of the Jul-Aug issue of The Canadian Amateur magazine, or on the RAC internet web site at <http://www.rac.ca>.

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73 to one and all de Wayne Letang, VA3WRL  
Please send all HI-Q submittals to LARC, Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave, Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4AC  
Thank you very much, Wayne Letang, VA3WRL



**Date: August 29, 1999**

**Subject: Call for Nominations**

Call for 1999 Nominations - Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame and Radio Amateur of the Year

For 1999 eligibility, nominations for these two prestigious RAC-sponsored awards must be received at Radio Amateurs

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**Don't miss a single copy of HI-Q. Send your change of address notice to the Club.**

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project